

AFNS Review

Compilation of top Air Force News Service articles

March 2, 1998

Exercise Northern Edge '98 hones skills in Alaska

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFNS - 980228) — Alaska's largest annual training exercise, Northern Edge '98, is under way at military locations in central and southern Alaska. The multiservice exercise began Feb. 17 and is developed and hosted by Alaskan Command to train component forces.

More than 7,000 U.S. airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen from active-duty, Reserve and National Guard forces are participating, either as part of a joint task force or as aggressor forces.

Northern Edge '98 field training is divided into two parts, held in separate locations. Major air and ground maneuvers are at Fort Greely and in training areas southeast of Fairbanks. The naval harbor defense portion is in Ketchikan.

The exercise focuses on military peace enforcement operations and features the full range of service capabilities including an airborne mass jump with 500 soldiers, a brigade air assault supported by Apache helicopters and more than 1,200 sorties to support air operations. The scenario showcases a new Joint Live Fire Range using live ordnance from F-16 and A-10 aircraft as well as 155 mm and 105 mm Artillery and AH-64 Apache helicopters. This is the first time Apache helicopters have been part of field training exercises in Alaska.

The harbor defense segment tests U.S. Naval Forces Alaska units' ability to deploy to secure and defend a port for use by U.S. forces. Protecting the visiting USS Ingraham, an Everett, Wash.-based Guided Missile Frigate, and its crew is the main objective of the maritime portion of Northern Edge '98. The Marines' one-of-

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a-kind Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team from Norfolk, Va., is assisting with the harbor defense.

The field exercise goal is to integrate operation techniques and procedures, enhancing the participating units' abilities to work together anywhere in the world.

Major units from Alaska participating in Northern Edge '98 include: Alaskan Command headquarters; U.S. Army Alaska; 11th Air Force; U.S. Navy Alaska; U.S. Coast Guard District 17; Alaska Air National Guard and Alaska Army National Guard.

From outside Alaska, the major units include: 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.; a unit from the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; 1st Marine Division, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; 7th Field Artillery Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; 44th Fighter Squadron, 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron and 909th Air Refueling Squadron from Kadena Air Base, Japan; and the 62nd Air Mobility Wing, McChord AFB, Wash.

For more information on Northern Edge '98, visit its web site at <http://www.topcover.af.mil/ne/>.

Al Jaber continues to grow

by Tech. Sgt. Ray Johnson
Air Force Combat Information Team

AL JABER AIR BASE, Kuwait (AFNS - 980208) — Life at this barren camp located only 75 miles south of the Iraqi border can be described in one word: packed.

Since January, Al Jaber's ever-growing population has jumped from about 700 Reserve, Guard and active-duty Air Force members to nearly 1,300. And that number will increase to some 1,500 troops when a 200-man medical team arrives.

For base leadership, one of the primary concerns is providing living quarters for groups of airmen arriving daily, said Col. Jim Coning, deputy director for logistics and support, 4406th Operations Group (Provisional).

"We have brought in many new tents, but the problem is that people arrived sooner than we expected because of airlift availability," he said. "It's not that bases back home are sending people too quickly, it's us trying to keep up with the flow of tent-building."

Currently, there are about 150 temporary shelters standing on this heavily guarded site, with each averaging 10 occupants. Most were built in the last few weeks, when military buildup began in response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein blocking United Nations inspectors from examining suspected weapon sites.

One of only three dozen civil engineers deployed to Al Jaber, Staff Sgt. Doni Zeller has built 35 temporary shelters in three days. Because of space limitations, he said there is room for only 25 or 30 more. And with few civil engineers deployed in country, everyone helps with construction.

"The hospital people have been

great," said Zeller, who just arrived on base for a 120-day stay. "The security forces, who have been tasked to help us on their off-duty time, have been a tremendous asset. In fact, almost everyone has pitched in to help."

Indeed, most Al Jaber airmen are holding down two or three jobs while working up to 16 hours a day.

"There are a lot of people arriving daily at Kuwait City International Airport, said Coning, "so extra drivers are needed for transportation. And that duty has fallen upon support troops. We have a lot people working outside their career field. But they have done it without thinking twice."

Guarding a no-fly zone

by Tech. Sgt. Ray Johnson

Air Force Combat Information Team

AL JABER AIR BASE, Kuwait (AFNS - 980219) — Ninety-three South Dakota guardsmen are deployed here as part of Joint Task Force — Southwest Asia, ensuring Iraqi aircraft don't enter designated no-fly zones.

But if called upon, Guard pilots and their F-16C Fighting Falcons could join possible air strikes aimed at forcing Iraqi president Saddam Hussein into opening suspected weapon sites to United Nations inspectors.

South Dakota's 114th Fighter Group, nicknamed the Lobos, arrived at this sand-scrubbed camp Feb. 15 to support active-duty units enforcing Operation Southern Watch, a six-year-old contingency that bars all Iraqi fixed-aircraft and helicopters from flying below the 32nd parallel. With their F-16s, they deliver air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack capabilities. No stranger to JTF-SWA's mission, they also flew two tours in past years at Incirlik AB, Turkey, for Operation Northern Watch.

Unlike their active-duty counterparts who work from Jaber for up to 120 days, the Lobos' stay is much shorter: one month, rotating every two weeks. However, it is part of an overall six-month undertaking by several Guard organizations.

"We tend to take commitment time and break it into rainbow units," said Maj. Reid Christopherson, 175th Fighter Squadron maintenance officer. "A Guard presence has been here since December and will remain so through May, pulling either one- or two- month blocks."

The 114th FG, the first operational Guard unit to fly F-16Cs, brought Fighting Falcons, maintenance and equipment from South Dakota and Iowa. When their one-month mission ends in mid-March, an Iowa crew accepts the job using equipment and aircraft left at Jaber, which sits only 75 miles south of the Iraqi border.

While here for only a month, the 114th FG still began earnest planning for this deployment in August 1997. Christopherson noted early preparation gave his unit "a tremendous lead-in opportunity."

"We published about 30 bulletins on what to expect," he said. "Consequently, we were able to hit the ground running."

Veterans of numerous Red, Green and Maple Flag exercises, as well as training trips overseas, the South Dakota guardsmen now are putting to work what they train for daily back home: delivering air power. "This is real world," the major said. "This is a contingency environment. This is what we prepare for."

As for being at Jaber — which Iraqi troops overran when they invaded

Kuwait in 1990 — during current uncertainties, Christopherson doesn't sense any hesitation or reluctance to be here from his crew. In fact, he commented on "how amazingly calm" they are.

"They feel ready," the major said. "There isn't any apprehension on their part. They've come to make their contribution here."

Guard continues Southern Watch patrols

by Tech. Sgt. Ray Johnson

Air Force Combat Information Team

AL JABER AIR BASE, Kuwait

(AFNS - 980235) — Even though a possibility now exists that the latest Iraqi crisis will be settled peacefully, a long-term contingency meant to ensure Saddam Hussein complies with United Nations' resolutions continues.

Called Operation Southern Watch, it was established Aug. 2, 1992, in response to Iraqi warplanes flying bombing and strafing attacks against Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq. The mission, carried out by Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcons units, enforces a no-fly zone below the 32nd parallel for Hussein's fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

Patrolling that area from Al Jaber, located about 75 miles from the Iraqi border, are F-16s from the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard.

Lt. Col. Dick Rayburn, 114th FW detachment commander, said the groups' 175th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed the Lobos, is flying "no more and no less" despite a military buildup started three weeks ago when Hussein steadfastly refused to let UN inspectors examine suspected weapon sites.

"We have six aircraft flying 4-turn-4 (four sorties that return for another four sorties) daily," the colonel said. "That's pretty much been the regular schedule ever since the Guard, actually, ever since the F-16 community joined their A-10 counterparts in manning this job."

Rayburn, a full-time Guard member, said his part-time pilots will fly 11 sorties in 12 days from the barren base, while averaging only six back home

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monthly. And they are receiving "superb" training opportunities.

"We are flying," he explained, "with British, French and other U.S. forces while on patrol. It's very similar to what we do at Red Flag, Maple Flag and Cope Thunder exercises back home. By coming here, we continue our objective of participating in a huge contingency-type scenario every other year. With, of course, the realization that it's real-world."

Guard and Reserve units have continued to pull their fair share of real-world commitments, such as Operation Southern Watch, as the Air Force continues downsizing. Maj. Reid Christopherson, 175th maintenance commander said both are facing an operations tempo problem much like the active-duty, adding "that we are watching the situation very closely."

Indeed, right before the Lobos left for this mission, they received an inquiry on the affect of frequent deployments.

"Right now, it's (operations tempo) manageable," Christopherson said. "We often refer to it within the Guard environment as a full-plate syndrome and it's reached the point where the plate is full. There are limits on how much you can take on and do well. We have to watch that we get the right types of missions. But we realize this is one of them."

President authorizes Reserve call-up

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980244)

— President Clinton signed an executive order Feb. 24 authorizing the call-up of 500 members of the National Guard and Reserve in support of operations in and around Southwest Asia under the presidential selected Reserve call-up authority.

The order gives the secretary of defense the authority to call to active duty selected Reserve units, as well as individuals, for possible participation in the deployment of active-duty forces in Southwest Asia.

Acting on this authority, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen delegated military departments the authority to order selected reserve units and indi-



Aviator pays receive comprehensive review

WASHINGTON (AFNS -

980209) — Since August 1997, the Air Force has been actively participating in an Office of the Secretary of Defense-led review of aviation compensation. The review was directed by Congress in the 1998 National Defense Authorization Act and has been tasked to examine current aviation pay, for both officers and enlisted people, to determine adequacy and appropriateness to attract and retain aviators.

The results of the review are due to Congress at the end of March. Because of the complexities of the review, OSD will probably provide an interim response to Congress in March, with a final report sometime in late summer.

Every detail of existing legislation that governs aviation pay is under review. It is possible that existing aviator pays may be restructured or new aviator entitlements may be created. The Air Force is placing equal emphasis on both officer and enlisted aviation pay and is working toward a comprehensive compensation plan that will aid in retaining experienced aviators.

At this time, the Air Force is reviewing a proposal to establish a "career incentive pay" for enlisted aviators similar to flight pay for rated officers. As the working group makes progress and details become available, Air Force personnel officials will update commanders and people in the field.

vidual members not assigned to units to active duty for up to 270 days. Types of units that may make up those called include Army chemical company, Air Force special operations C-130 aircrews, Navy harbor surveillance people and Coast Guard port security.

For more than 29 years, U.S. Total Force policy has involved National Guard and Reserve forces with active-duty training, equipment and operations to provide added force structure for active-duty operations.

In some special skill areas, these units and people provide the majority of the military's force structure and capability. Therefore, said a Defense Department spokesman, participation by Reserve components in support of Southwest Asia operations has been envisioned from the early stages of planning.

More than 1,000 reserve component volunteers are already serving on active duty in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Actual notifications will be made by the respective military components. Orders for an initial call-up could come within 24 hours. People and units notified for possible activation will proceed immediately to home station training and take care of personal matters in preparation for call-up.

Reservists support Persian Gulf buildup, other missions

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.

(AFNS - 980221) — Whether hauling cargo to Southwest Asia to bolster U.S. presence in the region or shuttling supplies to a remote location in South America, Air Force reservists are serving on almost every continent.

As of mid-February, more than 1,000 Air Force reservists are deployed overseas with a third of those involved in the build up of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf.

"Our support of the latest response to Saddam Hussein's games is a great deal more than what we did in late 1997 when he refused to comply with United Nations resolutions," said Lt. Col. Wayne Petitto, assistant chief of the air operations branch at Headquarters AFRC.

"This is a much larger operation. Furthermore we've been able to support more of Air Mobility Command's request for airlift and air refueling assistance because the missions have been somewhat spread out over a longer

period of time. Because of this, there is a larger mix of aircraft types involved."

Aircrews from Reserve C-5, C-17, C-130, C-141, KC-135 and KC-10 units across the country have logged more than 1,200 flying hours transporting people and equipment and providing airborne fuel stations. C-5 units are the most heavily tasked flying 850 hours by mid-February.

"People are this command's greatest asset," said Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh, AFRC commander. "Airplanes and other modern, high-tech equipment provide us the means with which to accomplish our mission, but the people of Air Force Reserve Command do the job. It is important to note that all Reserve requirements since the end of Desert Storm (1991) — and there have been many — were filled by volunteers. This says a great deal about the caliber of people in the command."

Only 42 reservists remain on the ground in the gulf region. They represent a cross-section of professions including aerial port, communications, logistics and civil engineering.

In addition to the current build-up, reservists continue to support Southern Watch, enforcing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. Reserve air refueling units from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.; Beale Air Force Base, Calif.; Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind.; and March Air Reserve Base, Calif., will deploy KC-135s to Saudi Arabia in February and March. Units from McConnell AFB, Kan.; Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.; and Tinker AFB, Okla., are also sending crews to Saudi in March.

Closer to home, the rescue squadron from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., sent two HH-60G helicopters to El Salvador to provide airlift to civil engineers taking part in New Horizons, a nation building project. Farther south, the C-130 airlift wing from Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y., picked up the command's recurring Coronet Oak rotation to Howard AFB, Panama.

Other reservists overseas are in Southeast Asia participating in Cope Tiger, a joint exercise involving the United States, Thailand and Singapore.

The Reserve's well-known "Hurricane Hunters" from Keesler AFB, Miss., are flying the Pacific in WC-130 weather reconnaissance aircraft for El Nino research.

Additional reservists are in Europe, Africa and Turkey to participate in Operation Joint Guard, the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia; and Northern Watch, enforcement of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq. (Courtesy Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Air Force Reserve to celebrate 50th anniversary

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.(AFNS - 980218) — The Air Force Reserve turns 50 April 14, and Air Force Reserve Command units throughout the country plan to celebrate the occasion.

The theme for the 50th anniversary is "Dedicated Citizen Airmen - 50 Years of Serving America." The window for commemorative events is Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1998.

Air Force Reserve Command traces its heritage to the National Defense Act of 1916, which authorized a corps of reserve officer and enlisted aviators. From this modest beginning, reservists made noteworthy contributions during both world wars.

On April 14, 1948, the Air Force Reserve became a component of the Air Force. In 1998, the Air Force Reserve Command celebrates the 50th anniversary of this event.

During those 50 years, reservists have served proudly and with great distinction during times of conflict. They answered the call in Korea in the 1950s; in Berlin, Cuba and Southeast Asia in the 1960s; in Israel and continuing operations in Southeast Asia in the 1970s; in Lebanon, Grenada and Panama in the 1980s; and in the Persian Gulf in the 1990s.

"Today's post-Cold War Air Force is the smallest it has been since it was established in 1947," said Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh, commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "There are reservists in almost every career field or mission area. Anywhere from 100 to 1,000 serve outside the United States on any given day, whenever and wherever

needed. We have changed from a standby mobilization pool to become the "go-to" force, who is called on to serve on a moment's notice."

As part of America's Total Force team, reservists today support virtually every Air Force peacetime operational activity, from airlift missions and satellite operations, to patrolling the no-fly zones over Bosnia and Iraq. While maintaining a high degree of readiness, they also perform humanitarian, rescue, and the unique hurricane reconnaissance and aerial-spray missions throughout the United States and around the world.

A wide selection of general information on the Air Force Reserve, including a calendar of 50th anniversary events, a wealth of historical data, current news and more is available on the command's Web site at <http://www.afrc.af.mil>. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Service medical leaders share common voice on TRICARE

by Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980217) — They wear the uniforms of their respective service branches. But the nation's three military surgeons general share a common vision for TRICARE.

The military's top surgeons voiced their views and concerns about DOD's managed health care plan when they addressed delegates at the annual TRICARE conference here Feb. 9.

"Working together is clearly the only way we are going to be successful," Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Ronald Blanck told the tri-service audience of some 1,400 medics. And while he lauded the shared vision of DOD health care leadership, Blanck said the focus now "is shifting from leadership putting TRICARE together to the medical community in the field carrying it out."

Making sure the military stays mission-ready is military medicine's top requirement, Blanck said. "Readiness is first and foremost what we are about," he said. For military medicine, he said, "readiness is keeping service members ready to do their jobs and doing things to

keep them healthy.” Blanck listed force protection, immunizations and preventive medicine as key ingredients to a fit and healthy fighting force.

Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Harold Koenig said the TRICARE benefit must be delivered uniformly across the system so that beneficiaries can expect and receive the same level of health care anywhere. Koenig said military health care beneficiaries serving with geographically separated units and overseas are just as important as those living near major medical centers in the United States and deserve the same level and quality of care. And he urged military health care professionals to “serve as ambassadors to TRICARE.”

As ambassadors, military medics must look at health care delivery from the patients’ perspective,” Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Charles Roadman said. He called for “passionate dedication” to ensure world-class quality health care that delivers the best services to patients at the best value for DOD. “Anything short of that will fall short of the trust” people traditionally have placed in military health care, he said.

The Joint Staff’s senior logistics officer confirmed the three physicians’ stance on force readiness. Health and fitness and medical support “are absolutely critical to successful warfare,” Army Lt. Gen. John Cusick said. Cusick challenged the medical community to ask itself tough questions about health care delivery. “Are our war fighters protected? Are we taking care of families? Are we keeping our promises to veterans?” he challenged the medics to consider. “War starts in a hurry,” he said. “Are you ready?”

From the onset of TRICARE, defense health care leaders have underscored the plan’s relationship with military readiness — ensuring health care services at

home don’t disappear when the medics deploy with the war fighters. What the leaders were saying here Feb. 9 was, “The system’s working as designed, but we can do it better.”

Brooks scientists to host first international jet fuel conference

by Rudy Purificato

Air Force Research Laboratory

BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980204) — People exposed to jet fuel hazards may benefit from research shared by scientists from around the world when they gather at San Antonio in April.

Some 220 scientists will meet April 1-3 for the first International Conference on the Environmental Health and Safety of Jet Fuel.

The conference will be co-sponsored by the Air Force, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Exposure Research Laboratory and the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

The purpose of the conference is to provide an international forum where academia, government and industry can improve communication between the research and operational communities.

Maj. Les Smith, chief of Industrial Hygiene Team 1, Detachment 1, Human Systems Center here, was the catalyst for the conference. Research leaders from academia, industry, the military and commercial aviation have all been attracted to the conference.

Staff Sgt. Michelle Davenport, conference coordinator, said, “Normally, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research hosts a meeting every year in Arizona for researchers to share information on jet fuel. Major Smith wanted to

branch out into the international community, knowing a lot of research is being conducted (there).” She cited a recent jet fuel research agreement made between Det. 1, HSC and the Norwegian Royal Air Force.

Conference attendees will be given the opportunity to network with colleagues involving jet fuel concerns, while providing a framework for them to identify current and future health and operational needs.

Among confirmed attendees are scientists from the Norwegian and Canadian air forces; Sweden; the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps; and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Academia plans to send researchers from nearly a dozen prominent universities. Industry and commercial aviation representatives from airline and oil companies will also attend.

“We have expanded the conference to (major command) fuel representatives as well,” Davenport said.

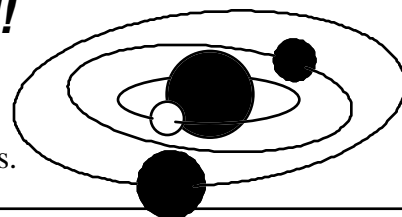
The conference will feature a series of workshops on basic research, applied research and medical surveillance. According to Davenport, several seminars will focus on operational (jet fuel handling) issues.

According to Smith, the Air Force’s interest in jet fuel research was heightened when the service converted from JP-4 to JP-8 fuel. This conversion resulted in the Air Force needing accurate and complete emissions data related to JP-8 fuel use to meet regulatory requirements.

The conference keynote speaker will be Gary Vest, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for environmental security. Other key speakers include Dr. Sanford Zelnick from the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, who will address Air Force medical issues; and Maj. Blane Wempler from Wright-

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Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, who will present issues from the Defense Department's Propulsion Environmental Working Group.

"The conference is open to individuals who are working with jet fuel research and development," Davenport said.

People wishing to attend must register with Davenport by calling DSN 240-6143/6169 or commercial (210) 536-6143/6119, or by sending e-mail to michelle davenport@guardian.brooks.af.mil/.

Air, space basic test course begins

by Rosemary Heiss

42nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNS - 980206) — A trial run of the Air and Space Basic Course School began Feb. 9 with 13 new second lieutenants attending.

The initial test will be a dry run of the two seven-week test courses planned for this summer and fall. It will focus on checking the ASBC curriculum for content, achievement of objectives and flow.

The curriculum includes instruction and practice on Air Force core values, core competencies, importance of teamwork and studies in air and space power history, according to Col. Stefan Eisen, ASBC School commandant. It was created to help new officers understand the airman perspective and their role on the air and space power team.

At the end of the course, "lieutenants will better understand how they fit into the air and space power picture," Eisen said. He added that the main objective of the course is to equip participants with a better understanding of how air and space power is generated, supported and applied.

The course is designed to provide all new officers entering the Air Force with a common experience, fostering greater teamwork and increasing officers' personal identification with the Air Force.

The curriculum's primary architects are the 32 Air Force officers and civil-

ians assigned to ASBC. The initial outline was generated in May 1997, and the curriculum material development phase started in mid-September.

"These authors represent a wide variety of Air Force specialty codes," said Eisen. "They used their broad background of experience along with numerous Air Force and Air University resources to build the curriculum."

Students will be given pre- and post-tests and weekly quizzes to gauge the effectiveness of the curriculum. Also, "part of this initial test involves surveys and feedback sheets for students, faculty and observers to fill out," said Eisen.

In addition to the academic portion of the weekly quizzes, part of the post-quiz assessment will ask students if the curriculum properly prepared them. The evaluation of the course will be used to make final adjustments to the curriculum so that it will benefit all new officers.

Once this test is completed and evaluated, appropriate changes will be made and applied to the two test courses this summer. July 6 will mark the first of two formal ASBC test classes, which will have a total of about 940 students.

In these test classes, participants will reflect an approximate representation of Air Force accessions, according to Eisen. About 50 percent of the participants will be from Reserve Officer Training Corps, 25 percent from Officer Training School and 20 percent from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Participants will also represent the broad spectrum of specialty codes, giving course evaluators an accurate representation of Air Force career demographics.

In addition to active-duty officers, about 5 percent of ASBC students will be drawn from the total force and Air Force civilian interns. After the two summer courses, test results will be compiled and used to determine how valuable ASBC is in preparing new second lieutenants for the 21st century.

"ASBC has the potential to become an integral part of a continuum of professional military education that will better prepare today's new airmen for their leadership roles," concluded Eisen. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Glenn spins in Air Force centrifuge

by Staff Sgt. Jason Tudor

Air Force News Service - 980207

BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE,

Texas — Senator John Glenn, who took his first trip into space almost 36 years ago, took a spin in an Air Force centrifuge here Feb. 19, bringing him one step closer to returning to space in October.

Glenn, 76, completed two 9-minute missions simulating liftoff in the space shuttle. During each ride, he experienced gravitational forces about three times stronger than his own body weight.

A team of more than 12 Air Force doctors, specialists and technicians ensured the Ohio senator and former Marine fighter pilot's ride would be uneventful.

"It went great," Glenn said to a crowd of reporters gathered outside the Brooks facility. "I got a good drill. I was glad to do that."

During the 18-minute span of the test, Glenn remarked several times that he felt "fine." He waved his arms several times as the G forces shifted him in the capsule.

"It's like lifting dumbbells without anything in your hands," he said during the first 9-minute test session.

Glenn was one of seven astronauts and one cosmonaut who received the centrifuge training during the day. The Air Force has performed these duties since 1991. Since then, more than 100 astronauts have filed through to take their spin in the device.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jim Dooley, project officer for Glenn's visit, former Marine A-6 Intruder pilot and exercise physiologist, said he knew Glenn's experience would be uneventful.

"It's not a difficult profile," Dooley said. "The experience is like having a 225-pound gorilla sit on your chest."

Tech. Sgt. Mac Baker II controlled every aspect of Glenn's ride in the centrifuge. Baker said this ride was akin to a day at an amusement park, calling the profile benign. Baker's first job is to train fighter pilots in this centrifuge where pilots can experience up to nine Gs of force.

"We call it training but it's really an orientation," Baker said. "Most roller coasters will reach 3 Gs, so this really isn't that tough."

And, as for the issue of Glenn's age, doctors were on hand to monitor the senator's heart rate and rhythm. Col. (Dr.) John Marshall said Glenn's health has never been an issue to him reaching space again.

"He's had a complete cardiopulmonary work-up," Marshall said, referring to the extensive tests done on Glenn's heart. "He's in excellent physical condition."

Astronaut Pam Melroy, a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, finished the same profile earlier in the day. She said she is excited about Glenn's return to the astronautical fraternity. She also was very enthusiastic about the Air Force's role in space exploration.

"I'm incredibly proud of the Air Force," Melroy said. "The Air Force has always had a role in space exploration. It's something we should always stay with."

Glenn is slated to go on the STS-95 space shuttle mission in October, which will support a variety of research payloads including investigating the effects of space flight on the aging process. His first trip into space came Feb. 20, 1962, when he became the first person to orbit the Earth aboard "Friendship 7," a Mercury spacecraft.

Tunner proves worth at Hunter AAF

by 1st Lt. Amy Haedt
92nd Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs (deployed)

HUNTER ARMY AIR FIELD, Ga. (AFNS - 980241) — Air Force cargo crews here can't wait until the Tunner 60,000-pound loader becomes the primary cargo loader for airlift operations.

"The Tunner is the Cadillac of K-loaders," said Airman 1st Class Larisa Meyer of the 60th Aerial Port Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif. "It's the easiest and most versatile of the loaders."

Two Tunner loaders from Travis AFB and four trained personnel put the new loader, specifically designed to prepare,

load and unload cargo on airlift aircraft, to use here during the deployment of 3,000 Army soldiers and their equipment from nearby Fort Stewart to Southwest Asia. They came as part of the 615th Tanker Airlift Control Element deployment Feb. 15-16 the deployment of those soldiers and their equipment.

"The sooner we can get the Tunner as the primary loader the better," said Master Sgt. Don Archuleta, aerial port superintendent with the 715th Air Mobility Squadron at Travis. "We loaded 33 pallets in a little over an hour using the Tunner. It would have taken about three hours with the Cochran wide-body elevator loader."

The Tunner came into the inventory last year and arrives at a time when material-handling equipment suffers inventory shortages and outdated capabilities. For example, the 40K loaders are 25 percent short of required loaders for wartime cargo movement, and they cannot reach the cargo decks of commercial aircraft such as the Boeing 747 and DC-10.

While the Cochran and Wilson wide-body elevator loaders can load the Boeing 747, they're less efficient than the Tunner because they have to be taken apart to be transported. "It takes between four and eight hours to put the Cochran together," said Archuleta. "You can drive the Tunner right off the aircraft and put it to use."

The Cochran is limited in where it can go because it has to be pulled manually or with a vehicle, according to Master Sgt. Dale Jordan, also an aerial port superintendent from McChord AFB, Wash.

"The main improvements that the Tunner offers are that it can be driven, it can reach any aircraft, and it can lift more pallets than the other loaders," said Jordan. The Tunner can handle six pallets while the 40K and 25K loaders can handle four.

Col. Gary Kirsteatter, 615th Air Mobility Operations Group commander at Travis and overall mission commander for the airlift operation here, said "it's about time" the Air Force got this versatile loader. "The Cochrans and Wilsons were great in their time, but

we're ready to replace them."

The Tunner has been used during this deployment on commercial 747 and L1011 aircraft in addition to Air Mobility Command's C-17s, C-5s and C-141Bs. (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

Airborne assault secures Donnelly Airfield

by Army Sgt. Dan Strauch
Northern Edge '98
Joint Information Bureau

FORT GREELY, Alaska (AFNS - 980227) — The tactical portion of Northern Edge '98 got under way Feb. 18 when more than 360 soldiers and supplies parachuted onto the Donnelly drop zone.

Members of the 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and the 355th Fighter Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, prepared the landing zone for soldiers prior to their insertion.

"We have field artillery being fired while A-10s drop bombs to eliminate enemies on the ground," said Maj. Rich Thomas, 1st Brigade, 6th Infantry Division executive officer. "What they are doing is prepping the objective so the soldiers have a safe place to land. Once they hit the ground they will go directly into the attack to ensure the objective has been eliminated."

The first pass of C-130s crossed the landing zone dropping supplies the soldiers will need to survive during the next two weeks of the exercise.

"It's a cold environment," explained Thomas. "The fuel and other supplies are essential to the soldiers survival and success during the mission."

According to Thomas, the airdrop alone takes a lot of command and control to ensure safety on the battlefield.

"We have Air Force A-10s prepping the landing zone, field artillery firing rounds, helicopters moving in and out of the area and C-141s dropping soldiers all at the same time," he said. "This type of joint training takes a lot of planning."

Both Army and Air Force commanders agree that Northern Edge is a great opportunity for joint training exercises.

"The integration of our services gets

better and better each day," said Lt. Gen. David McCloud, commander of Alaskan Command. "During Northern Edge we are given the opportunity to show how well the different services work together."

"This is a great opportunity to bring the forces together to train in Alaska," said Lt. Gen. William Steele, commander of United States Army Pacific. "This is the largest and best training area the Army has."

AMC selects Rodeo '98 commander

by Tech. Sgt. Mark Haviland

305th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs
MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. (AFNS - 980240) — Air Mobility Command has selected the commander for its 1998 Rodeo Competition.

Brig. Gen. William Welser III, commander of the Air Mobility Warfare Center, Fort Dix, will command the competition that takes place at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., June 21-26.

Welser, who was recently nominated for promotion to major general, said he is "very excited" about leading the total-force competition that showcases air drop, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, security forces, aerial port operations, special tactics and maintenance operations.

"I have an exceptional staff of experts in each discipline necessary to organize Rodeo '98. It's been fun watching them put together the pieces of the puzzle," Welser said.

The puzzle includes more than 2,500 people competing on more than 80 teams from over 300 active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and allied nation units.

The ultimate goal of the competition is to develop and improve techniques and procedures to enhance operations between the competitors.

"Rodeo gives us the opportunity to come together with our international counterparts to improve the readiness of the command. As we've seen in worldwide operations, the more we get to know each other the more successful

we'll be," Welser said.

When not competing, the teams will have the opportunity to attend a variety of symposiums and seminars, and view displays of new equipment and aircraft, such as the C-27 and the C-130J. Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase, will also perform, according to Welser.

Rodeo began in 1962 as a combat skills competition designed to develop and improve techniques and procedures used in air mobility operations, while promoting esprit de corps. In 1979, Rodeo was expanded to include international air mobility teams. The event, which is held every two years, takes place at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., in the year 2000. (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

Enlisted heritage accessible worldwide

by Senior Airman Madelyn Alvarez
42nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNS - 980233) — The Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute at Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., has recently expanded its web site. This expansion makes historical documents, photographs, biographies and old news clippings of the enlisted force available as a research tool for students at enlisted schools throughout the Air Force.

"An initial web site on the enlisted heritage hall was created in 1994, but it was very limited," said Master Sgt. Leslie E. Amidon, interactive courseware instructional designer at the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education. "It was a nice page in itself, but we wanted to expand that capability and change the focus of the web site to a research institute for enlisted heritage."

The new web site was initiated in June, and has continued to grow rapidly, receiving recognition as a featured Air Force site on the Air Force web page during the Christmas holiday.

Students from airman leadership schools, noncommissioned officer academies and the Air Force Senior NCO Academy are continuously accessing the site in order to meet class

requirements.

"The curriculum changed for enlisted professional military education programs in the summer of '97 so that students now have to write an enlisted heritage research paper as a class requirement," said Chief Master Sgt. Gary R. Akin, director of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute.

"About 16,000 students go through these classes annually, with about 80 schools in session at any one time, so there is a tremendous need for students to access information about enlisted history," said Akin.

"This web site is important because it supplies information and data for students. It is available for anyone in the Air Force to use, and we can educate people and promote enlisted history," he added.

The web site includes photographs and information on such topics as enlisted pilots, chief master sergeants of the Air Force, the first enlisted woman, original source documents and more, including crosslinks to other research areas and sites.

"The idea was to put enough information out there so that students would have something to choose from," added Akin. "Prior to that we received calls each day from all over the world requesting information. I just hate having students struggle for something that is important to their careers."

The Enlisted Heritage Research Institute has converted at least one-third of its files to put on the Internet and continues to add more information as it becomes available.

"With the help of three volunteers, Linda Saray Fodrea, LaShawna Harris and Sandra Amidon, we converted more than 400 megabytes of paper files, including photos, newspaper clippings and magazines into digital form," said Amidon.

Since developing their web site, the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute has received many favorable comments from customers throughout the Air Force.

"We have received tremendous customer feedback primarily from airman leadership school students. They are very happy and usually say 'it's more

information than I needed,” said Akin.

“We have received a lot of positive feedback,” added Amidon. “It’s been called a ‘goldmine.’ I just hope it’s not anywhere near completion and it keeps going.”

The EHRI web site can be reached through the Internet at www.au.af.mil/au/cepme/heritage. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

JTF Full Accounting garners Joint Meritorious Unit Award

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980234) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton has approved the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for members of Joint Task Force Full Accounting, Camp Smith, Hawaii, for exceptional meritorious achievement.

The award includes the four JTFFA detachments in Southeast Asia: Detachment 1, Thailand; Det. 2, Vietnam; Det. 3, Laos; and Det. 4, Cambodia.

The timeframe for the award is March 1, 1993 through Dec. 16, 1997, with eligibility limited to those U.S. military forces present at the time and who directly participated in the service or achievement for 30 days or more for the JMUA.

Military members must be assigned or attached by official orders to the joint unit receiving the JMUA. Local commanders may waive, on an individual basis, the 30-day minimum requirement for individuals — Air Force Reserves on active-duty or temporary duty personnel — who, in the purview of the commander contributed directly to the achievement cited, and were assigned on official orders to the awarded unit during the timeframes.

Members eligible for the JMUA should report to their servicing military personnel flight’s career enhancement section and provide supporting documentation (performance report, copy of decorations citation with special orders, certificate of achievement signed by on-site commander, travel voucher, etc.) verifying they were assigned to the unit. (Courtesy of the Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

Air Force Core Competencies

Our Nation’s Air Force develops, trains, sustains and integrates the elements of air and space power to produce:

- Air and space superiority
- Global attack
- Rapid global mobility
- Precision engagement
- Information superiority
- Agile combat support

Speed, flexibility, and the global nature of its reach and perspective distinguish the Air Force’s execution of its core competencies.

Senior master sergeant promotion list out March 11

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980243) — The Air Force plans to release the list of the service’s newest senior master sergeants March 11 (March 12 for those units across the international date line).

The list of those promoted is releasable the first duty hour at each duty location with the complete list of those selected for promotion Air Force-wide becoming available on the Air Force Personnel Center’s home page at noon CST, March 12.

AFPC will post the list alphabetically as well as by Air Force Specialty Code, say personnel officials here. Cut-off scores by AFSC and board scores will also be provided.

The AFPC home page address is: <http://www.afpc.af.mil>; then click on the appropriate headline to view the list of those selected for promotion. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Promotion briefs include academy completion

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980210)

— After several years of masking the information, next fiscal year’s senior master sergeant promotion briefs will again list Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy completion.

The Air Force began masking academy information as a result of a 1992 Year of Training initiative, which prohibited master sergeant attendance at SNCOA and active-duty enrollment in the correspondence courses.

Since that time, the Air Force has changed its policy and now allows master sergeants to attend in-resident at the SNCOA, plus it reinstated the non-resident programs for those not selected for resident attendance.

Consequently, all master sergeants now have the opportunity to complete senior-level professional military education, according to personnel officials.

As a result, SNCOA completion data will be provided to promotion boards, starting with the 99E8 cycle. The method of completion will be masked to dispel any perception that resident or nonresident completion is preferred.

Course credit will be reflected for all resident and nonresident graduates who satisfy all course requirements by Sept. 30, 1998, in time for the 99E8 cycle.

Officers declining promotion still on promotion list

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980211)

— In a return to pre-drawdown policy, officers selected for promotion, who later decline their promotion, will no longer be removed from the promotion list and considered once-deferred officers.

Prior to this change, commanders of officers who declined promotion automatically had to start action to remove them from the list four months after their request.

Officers removed from lists were considered once-deferred for promotion. They would then meet a second promotion board, could be deferred a second time and be involuntarily separated from the service seven months after approval of the board results. This occurred even if the officer had a remaining active-duty service commitment.

Now, officers who decline promotion will remain on the promotion list until eligible for voluntary separation or retirement. Those officers who decline promotion will not meet a subsequent promotion board because they are still on a promotion list.

Officers selected for promotion who wish to decline have two options to consider, according to personnel officials. Officers may either:

— Keep their declination request in the system and serve until their active-duty service commitment, retirement date or approved voluntary separation date is reached; or

— Withdraw the request and assume the rank to which promoted when their promotion increment number is reached. Adjustments are made if the promotion effective date has passed.

More information regarding this policy change is available through military personnel flights.

Global Positioning System marks 20th anniversary

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS - 980226) — Twenty years ago, on Feb. 22, 1978, the first Navstar Global Positioning System satellite was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. It was the first of four GPS satellites to be launched that year.

By December 1978, this minimal constellation of military satellites was providing real-time, three-dimensional navigational information to limited Earth-bound users.

The GPS is operated by the Air Force Space Command's 2nd Space Operations

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Squadron at Falcon AFB, Colo. Today, the system has a minimum constellation of 24 operational satellites that blanket the Earth around the clock with precise, all-weather, navigational information.

Reaching far beyond military application, the GPS satellites today provide navigational information to commercial aircraft, ships at sea, hikers, rental car customers and anyone with a GPS receiver.

With its real-time accuracy of positioning users to within a few feet, the GPS is credited with revolutionizing areas as broad as land surveying to search and rescue. In fact, it is often referred to as the system that has taken the "search" out of search and rescue, as demonstrated in 1995 during the rescue of Capt. Scott O'Grady in Bosnia, according to an AFSPC official.

During the Persian Gulf campaign of 1991, the GPS played a critical part in synchronizing military action during a lightning-blitz, 100-hour war that was fought on an endless, featureless, ocean of sand, added the command officials.

So popular were the GPS receivers that troops, who at this time were using civilian-grade receivers, were writing home to family members requesting them to purchase civilian receivers and send them "ASAP" to the gulf.

GPS use in the civilian world goes way beyond vehicle navigation as well. By using stationary receivers, geologists are able to determine minute movements of the Earth's crust in earthquake zones, and archeologists are identifying hard-to-find sites in jungle foliage. GPS receivers on bulldozers are helping farmers grade their land to within a few inches of where they want it. Giant ocean vessels are now steering their cargo through previously unnavigatable routes.

This incredible satellite navigation system can trace its legacy back to the military's oldest space system, TRANSIT, say AFSPC officials. TRANSIT is a U.S. Navy navigational satellite used to accurately locate ballistic missile submarines and surface vessels. The first TRANSIT satellite was launched in 1960, and the system of four satellites became operational in 1965.

TRANSIT was slow, intermittent and subject to errors with even the slightest motion of the observer, according to George W. Bradley III, Air Force Space Command chief historian.

"In short, TRANSIT, while a big step forward in radio position location, was impractical for use on aircraft or missiles, he said."

The space system which ultimately became GPS, traces back to 1963 when the Air Force began work with the Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo, Calif., to develop its own multisatellite navigational system. Following many years of design modifications and tests, the first satellite was launched Feb. 22, 1978.

Today, GPS satellites travel in 12-hour, circular orbits 11,000 nautical miles above Earth. They occupy six orbital planes, inclined 55 degrees, with four operational satellites in each plane.

The spacecraft are positioned so that an average of six are observable nearly 100 percent of the time from any point on Earth, and each is equipped with an atomic clock, accurate to within 10-billionth of a second of the standard set by the U.S. Naval Observatory. Additional GPS satellites are being readied for use when aging satellites require replacement.

By the year 2000, approximately 17,000 U.S. military aircraft are expected to be equipped with GPS receivers, and more than 100,000 portable receivers will be in use by U.S. ground forces and on military vehicles.

Meanwhile, the National Academy of Sciences reports that by 2005, the commercial market for GPS services will be close to \$30 billion, marking the system as one of the most important American investments in space. (Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)